

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

\$908,000 IN SEISMIC UPGRADES MAKE HOPE SCHOOL SAFER

HOPE – The Province has approved \$908,000 in seismic upgrades to Hope secondary this summer that will make the school a safer place to learn and work, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

“Hope secondary has been at the heart of the community for almost 35 years, and these upgrades will ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the community for years to come,” said Bond. “These upgrades will ensure that the school will be a safer place for students and staff.”

The upgrades will improve the connections between the steel structure and masonry walls by installing additional steel elements. Work on the single-storey school that was built in 1973 will begin in June and be completed by September.

“The Fraser-Cascade school board appreciates the fact that the ministry is working to improve safety for our students through the seismic upgrade project for Hope secondary school,” said Jim Sinclair, chair of the Fraser-Cascade school board. “We look forward to continuing this work with the ministry as we improve all of our designated school sites. The ministry’s foresight and commitment regarding student safety is much appreciated.”

“This upgrade is part of our \$1.5-billion seismic program to provide students and staff across B.C. with safer schools,” said Bond. “We are the first government in B.C. to make such a major investment in student safety.”

Since 2001, the Province has invested \$2.3 million in the Fraser-Cascade school district to complete two capital projects and another \$4.1 million for buses and maintenance.

During the same period, the Province spent over \$1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 31 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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